

time were *Javesella discolor* (Boheman, 1849) and *Northodelphax distinctus* (Flor, 1861) (Delphacidae), both more usually host to strepsipterans of the genus *Elenchus* Curtis.— K.P. BLAND, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli* Butler (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in the Algarve, Portugal

Myself and my girlfriend spent a week, from 18 May to 25 May 1998, holidaying in the Algarve. We were based in Monte Gordo, a resort in the eastern Algarve close to the Spanish border. On 19 May, the first full day of our trip, we decided to look around the nearby Reserva Natural Do Sapal De Castro Marim, a major bird reserve. It was certainly a fascinating place and well worth a visit, with Cattle Egret and Marsh Harrier among the birds to be seen, but the most interesting discovery was made after stopping for refreshments in the small town of Castro Marim itself.

We decided to walk up to the medieval fortress which dominates the town, anticipating some excellent views over the Reserve and the Rio Guadiana, which forms the border with Spain. The steep hillside leading up to the castle was covered in patches of scrub and a profusion of grasses and wild flowers. While climbing up to the gates, I saw a “blue” butterfly flit across the track and settle in some thistles. Before I could get close, it moved again, but fortunately, despite the glare of the sun, I just about managed to follow its flight. The butterfly landed amongst flowers about three metres above us on the slope under the battlements. I scrambled up towards it and luckily found it again immediately, sitting sideways-on with its wings closed.

I had been expecting to see Lang’s Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous* L. while in the Algarve so, when close enough to see that the butterfly had short tails and a grey and white underside, my expectations seemed about to be confirmed. Nonetheless, I took a close look, to ensure that it wasn’t a small specimen of the Long-tailed Blue.

The underside pattern seemed too strongly-contrasting for *pirithous*, with areas tinged brownish. On cue, the butterfly opened its wings to reveal a uniform, shiny brown upperside with a white and black checked fringe, particularly on the forewings. It was a fine specimen of the Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli*. This was quickly confirmed by checking the identification in the new edition of the Collins *Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain & Europe* by Tolman & Lewington (1997).

Naturally, it was quite pleasing to think that I might be the first person to have found *marshalli* on Portuguese soil, albeit Castro Marim is only 3km from the border. But Portuguese flower-growers would no doubt be less thrilled to learn of the discovery of this South African pest species! I thought the butterfly might turn up again in other areas during the week, perhaps in the western Algarve, which would go some way towards showing that *marshalli* is a resident. Geraniums appear to be as popular in the Algarve as they are elsewhere in the Iberian peninsula, with fine displays in many gardens and on balconies in the towns. But despite looking out for the butterfly in suitable spots both in town and country areas to the west, I did not see it again.— MARTIN J. WHITE, 8 St.Nicholas Square, Martin Quarter, Swansea SA1 1UG,